

# THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

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## AGRICULTURE

Feeding Cottonseed Meal and Cottonseed Hulls; Dairy Courses at the A. & M. College.

Editor of The Progressive Farmer:

Will you please get the professors at the A. & M. College at Raleigh—men who have had experience in feeding stock of different kinds and already know from experience what it would cost a reader too much to find out by trial—to tell us through the columns of The Progressive Farmer what would be the result from feeding sheep, colts, pigs, and poultry, on cotton-seed hulls, and cotton-seed meal? Have you had any experience in feeding colts on this food?

What would be the chance for a country boy to get a position to do dairy work should he take a short course at the A. & M. College? How much pay could he hope to get, and where are openings for this kind of work?

L.

Rockingham Co., N. C.

(Answer by Dr. Chas. W. Burkett, Professor of Agriculture.)

There has been a great deal said in recent years about the feeding value of cotton seed products. The use of cotton-seed meal and hulls for both the dairy farm and the beef farm is not fully appreciated. The proper relation of cotton-seed meal to young stock is not yet fully understood. Where it has been fed to pigs and calves, some trials have shown that it was not safe to use, or at least there was certain limits in which it was necessary to use meal. I am not able to say just how far the feeding of cotton-seed meal to young stock should go. I believe, however, that where injury has resulted from its use, it was due to too constant and to too great a quantity in the daily rations. We should realize that cotton-seed meal is a very concentrated feeding stuff, hence for young animals but a small quantity should be fed. Where cotton-seed meal has been fed to poultry, horses, and calves in moderation, I do not know of any injury that has followed. Where it was fed to sheep, pigs and colts likewise in moderation, and at periods of no great duration, no ill results have followed. Where cotton-seed meal is used constantly and in large quantities, making it the bulk of the ration, injury oftentimes results. I believe that the present state of our knowledge about the use of cotton-seed meal, we can say

where it is used moderately and judiciously it is a splendid food, than which there is no better.

Now in reference to the chance for a country boy to get a position in dairy work where he has prepared himself. I can reply to this part of our correspondent's letter without hesitation. It has been our experience here that there is a constant demand for trained young men in dairy work. In this connection I would call the attention of the reader to the winter course in agriculture and dairying at the A. & M. College, which begins January 2nd and closes March 10th. It is a practical farmer's course, intended to touch on the practical sides of agricultural life. The good this course is doing is evidenced by a hundred or more young men who have completed it, and are now on farms or in dairy work in this and other States.

If any reader has any questions to ask about this course, they will be cheerfully answered.

### September Crop Report.

Raleigh Post, 3rd: State Commissioner of Agriculture S. L. Patterson yesterday issued the September report on crop conditions in North Carolina. The report is made up from the returns of 1,000 blanks sent out to all parts of the State. The most notable feature in the report is the cotton average—71, while in August it was 83. This decline is due to the continued dry weather causing the bolls not to develop. The September report is as follows:

1. What is the present condition of cotton? 71.
2. What is the present condition of corn? 85.
3. What is the present condition of tobacco? 84.
4. What is the present condition of peas? 81.
5. What is the present condition of sweet potatoes? 89.
6. What is the present condition of late Irish potatoes? 80.
7. What is the present condition of peanuts? 80.
8. What is the present condition of sorghum? 87.
9. What is the condition of late cabbage? 71.
10. What is the present condition of apples? 61.
11. What is the present condition of peaches? 58.
12. What is the present condition of grapes? 85.

### Apple Experiments at the Ohio Station.

C. W. Waid, of the Ohio Experiment Station gave at the recent meeting of the Ohio Horticultural Society, some of the results of experiments with varieties of apples at the station. Only such varieties as had been given sufficient trial to give some idea of their value were spoken of. Some of the varieties shown and discussed were:

Yellow Transparent, a well-known Russian variety, which has been generally considered to be the same as Cherlotten Thaler; at the station the Thaler has made a better growth and the trees have been more prolific.

In comparing the Duchess of Oldenburg with the Tetovka or Titus, we find the latter to be a slower grower, but with fruit of higher color, more conical and less acid, making a very desirable apple for retailing.

The Keswick Codlin is a well known variety but little grown; it is prolific, ripens about middle of August, valuable for culinary purposes.

Duling, a little known variety; tree a good grower; season second week in August, but lasting some time; fruit good form, very dark red color, especially when fully ripe; flavor peculiar in that it is hard to tell whether it is sweet or sub-acid; probably would have to be placed in the sweet class. Good for eating and excellent for baking.

McMahon, seedling of Alexander; origin Wisconsin; tree good grower, blights on rich soil, hardy; fruit large, handsome, white; resembles North Western Greening some; season middle September; keeps well if picked early and placed in good cellar; a good show apple, excellent cooker, fair eating apple, but season not good for this section.

Haas (Horse or Fall Queen), origin Missouri. Tree strong grower, has tendency to blight; fruit not good quality and poor keeper.

Mann; with us the Mann does not have root system enough to be able to stand the steady force of the wind, and soon begins to lean, and in a few years it falls entirely over; fruit poor color; not valuable here.

Huntsman, a low spreading tree, with very slender branches, allowing the fruit to hang very close to the ground; fruit good size, yellow, with blush; season last of September; falls early; not good season.

White Pippin, a well-known variety, but spoken of because of its merits; tree an excellent upright grower,

free from blight; fruit quality excellent, good keeper; one of the best white varieties especially for culinary purposes.

Northwestern Greening: tree very fine, largest of same age in orchard; fruit handsome; a fine show apple; good keeper, but not of good quality; has not borne very heavily on the station ground as yet. Would be an excellent tree for top-working.

Bortz: not widely known; tree good grower, tendency to blight; fruit good size, symmetrical, slightly flattened; color dull red; flavor good; good keeper; seems promising.

Wolf River, origin Wisconsin: a seedling of Alexander; bore the first fruit this year, nine years old; tree large, spreading, open; fruit very large, the largest in the orchard; attracted much attention wherever shown; said to be prolific in alternate years.

Stark: some trees grow very well with us, others did not do so well; on an average did not grow as well as Ben Davis, which is contrary to some reports.

Gano has done very well at the station, the trees have grown more thrifty and larger than Ben Davis, and the fruit has been much larger and much better colored. Quality about the same as Ben Davis. Where the Ben Davis will not color well, the Gano is better to raise.

Bismarck: This is a Russian variety, introduced from New Zealand; the claim for early bearing has not been sustained with us, as the Ben Davis and Gano both bore before the Bismarck. The apple is larger than Gano, and if possible more handsome, but of poor quality and does not seem to keep well. Tree is dwarfish with tendency to blight. Not promising.

There have been four blocks of apples, each containing 40 trees, set at the station for the purpose of determining the difference between the different methods of cultivation now in practice. First system is cultivation and crop first few years; second, cultivation and no crop; third, spading and dirt mulch; fourth, spading and straw mulch. The trees were planted in the spring of 1900, and the only difference to be noted as yet is between the straw mulched trees and the others, the former being a little more thrifty than any of the rest.

The only faith which saves us is that which enables us to save others.—J. P. Clarke.